Scheme for Weaker Sections in Assam

3155. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the welfare schemes for weaker sections of the society in the State of Assam started during the last three years including the current-year.

(b) the funds sanctioned and allocated by Government for these welfare schemes and achievement made in each scheme;

(c) whether the funds are adequate to meet the needs, and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) No new scheme has been started by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during the last three years for welfare of weaker sections. However, the details regarding amount sanctioned by the Ministry for various ongoing welfare scheme in Assam for the welfare of weaker sections (SCs/ STs/OBCs and Minorities) are given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 82].

(c) Yes,

(d) Does not arise

Child Welfare a Largely Neglected Area

3159. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news-item titled "Review of child welfare policies sought" appearing in the Hindustan Times, dated 7th February, 2000.

(b) whether it is a fact that since children do not form a vote bank, their welfare is largely neglected and even the juvenile justice system is not being properly implemented.

(c) whether all the authorities and the agencies including NGOs have since being consulted;

(d) if so, what is their reaction; and

(e) the steps taken to speed up the child welfare ?